

By: Senator(s) Huggins

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 530

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE OF LONGTIME DELTA
2 COUNCIL EXECUTIVE B.F. SMITH OF LELAND, MISSISSIPPI, AND
3 EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE ON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, longtime Chief Executive Officer of the Delta
5 Council and World War II Veteran B.F. Smith of Leland,
6 Mississippi, passed away on January 12, 2003; and

7 WHEREAS, a native of Greenwood, Mississippi, and a 1935
8 graduate of Greenwood High School, Mr. Smith was known for his
9 efforts to improve the quality of life in the Delta. He was the
10 longtime Chief Executive Officer for Delta Council, a
11 Stoneville-based regional economic development and farm
12 organization; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was recognized throughout the state and
14 country. His work impacted higher education, health care, flood
15 control, highway development and national policies concerning
16 agriculture; and

17 WHEREAS, he really took over Delta Council when it was
18 relatively small and carried it on. He believed that the Delta
19 was the best place to live and spent his entire life trying to
20 improve the conditions of the area; and

21 WHEREAS, he established the industrial arm of the Delta
22 Council and helped them bring industry into the Delta; and

23 WHEREAS, he received much recognition for his work. He was
24 awarded the Harry Baker Leadership Award, the cotton industry's
25 top recognition; the Silver Beaver Award for his record of
26 longtime service to the Boy Scouts of America; and was inducted
27 into the U.S. Cotton Industry Hall of Fame in 1982; and



28 WHEREAS, early in his career, he taught in Arcola and Jackson
29 before entering World War II in 1942. He worked for the Veterans
30 Administration in 1946, before being named as Assistant Manager
31 for Delta Council on May 1, 1947. He was made executive vice
32 president in 1948, and served as chief executive officer until
33 1982; and

34 WHEREAS, in 1988, the first \$1 Million endowment ever made to
35 Delta State University was established by Delta farmers and
36 businesses in his honor; and

37 WHEREAS, upon his retirement, thousands of people, including
38 politicians and ordinary citizens, gathered at the Walter Sillers
39 Coliseum at Delta State University to pay tribute to his career
40 with Delta Council; and

41 WHEREAS, his relationship with political powers that be in
42 the national Congress and with Presidents over the years was
43 remarkable; and

44 WHEREAS, he was a graduate of Sunflower Junior College and
45 Delta State University. He was a member of Leland United
46 Methodist Church, where he served as a Sunday School teacher for
47 40 years, church lay leader and past Chairman of the
48 Administrative Council; and

49 WHEREAS, Mr. Smith is survived by his wife, Mary Alyce Smith
50 of Leland; a daughter, Le'Laine Smith Weilenman of Stoneville; a
51 son, James W. Smith of Greenville; six grandchildren; and five
52 great-grandchildren; and

53 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of this
54 highly respected man whose service to the Delta region has
55 improved the economy and quality of life for the entire state of
56 Mississippi:

57 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
58 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
59 we do hereby commend the life of longtime Delta Council Chief
60 Executive Officer B.F. Smith of Leland, Mississippi, for his



61 highly respected work to improve the economy and quality of life
62 in the Delta, and express the sympathy of the Legislature to his
63 surviving family on his passing.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
65 Mr. Smith's wife, Mary Alyce Smith, and be forwarded to the Delta
66 Council, and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

